



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR #22339
CONTACT: PRESTON SHIPP
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 30, 2012

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On July 30, 2012, William Lee Wheatley, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Following an administration suspension of Mr. Wheatley's license to practice law for failure to comply with CLE requirements, he failed to communicate with his client or take reasonable steps to ensure that the client's interests were protected. Mr. Wheatley did not refund to the client any portion of his fee, which is also a violation.

By these acts, William Lee Wheatley has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.16 (terminating representation), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Wheatley 34622-1 rel.doc

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IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT I
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

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EXEC. SEC.

IN RE: WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR NO. 22339
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Sevier County)

FILE NO. 34622-1-PS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against William Lee Wheatley, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on June 22, 2012.

Following the suspension of the Respondent's license to practice law, he failed to communicate with his client or take reasonable steps to ensure that the client's interests were protected, in violation of Rules 1.3, 1.4, and 1.16. Also, the Respondent did not refund any portion of his fee, which constitutes a violation of Rule 1.5.

By the aforementioned acts, William Lee Wheatley has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.16 (terminating representation), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Lela Hollabaugh

Lela Hollabaugh, Chair

July 25, 2012

Date